

Chicopee Register

Congratulations to the CLASS OF 2020



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

From left Eric Chmierlewski, Max Piecos, Luke McDonough, Kyle Morrell and Dylan Weiss prepare to embark on a graduation parade around the city June 4, the day traditional graduation ceremonies were to take place. See more photos on page 6.

Setting the pace for a special class of Pacers

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

June 4 was a special day for a special class. After overcoming a series of setbacks that would have discouraged and deterred many, the Chicopee High School Class of 2020 paraded through the city on an afternoon to remember. “It’s kind of overwhelming because I forgot how many people we really are as a class. It’s exciting because I didn’t think that I would see a lot of these people again so it’s kind of just my last chance to really get a glimpse at what the Chicopee High School Class of 2020 looks like,” said Ashley Chimelis, valedictorian.

Chicopee High School’s graduation ceremony was totally unique in its nature, as the COVID-19 pandemic forced the institution to stray from tradition. Nonetheless, it wound up being every bit as memorable as any other year-end celebration that proceeded it. On the first Thursday of the month, the Class of 2020 gathered in the high school parking lot in preparation for a car parade that made its way down Front Street, circled around Chicopee Center and continued through Szot Park before returning to the high school.

Jubilant students decorated
See **CLASS** page 12



STAFF PHOTO BY TYLER S. WITKOP

Chicopee Comprehensive High School seniors had a graduation parade June 5. Each car in the parade had its own decorations, like this one with a fun graduation theme with streamers. See more photos on page 7.

Comp celebrates graduation in style

By Tyler S. Witkop
Staff Writer

After months spent in quarantine and relative isolation from their friends and classmates, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 2020 could finally celebrate their educational successes with a stampede of proud Colts. In celebration of the culmination of their high school career, city and school officials, friends and family joined the Class of 2020 at the Montgomery Street campus June 5 for a graduation car parade. The parade took off roughly three hours prior to the original, scheduled start of the school’s

graduation ceremonies, which typically take place on the football field. With fire trucks and police cruisers at the front of the procession, the class went on a quick parade around the block. “It’s been pretty challenging,” said Comp Principal Derek Morrison of the planning for the Class of 2020, noting that a traditional graduation ceremony is fairly straightforward. “I noticed a lot of smiles on their faces and that’s really what it’s all about. The staff really pulled together.” Chicopee Mayor John Vieau joined the gathering of families and school officials
See **GRADUATION** page 12

COMMUNITY

Chicopee Academy celebrates its ‘Fantastic Four’

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

During its June 4 virtual graduation ceremony, Chicopee Academy lauded its fantastic four. Isaiah Rivera, Geo Basile, Makiah Green and Nicolaas Green are the institution’s Class of 2020. “We’re a big family at Chicopee Academy. All of the students and staff show love to

each other. I want to thank all of my teachers and all of the staff for always encouraging me and helping me. It’s been incredible,” said Rivera. Rivera earned the Principal’s Award, given by Principal John Leonard to “an extraordinary senior who demonstrates determination, good character and leadership. This student is an asset to our school serving as a role model for other stu-

dents.” Chicopee Academy is a public, alternative school located on Dare Way that served 82 students in grades 6-12 during the 2019-2020 school year. The institution has a student-teacher ratio of five to one and serves youths who displayed behavioral, learning or attendance problems at other schools in the district. Rivera spent the past two

school years enrolled in the academy and will “take his talents” to Springfield Technical Community College in the fall. Leonard praised the resilience that Rivera and his graduating classmates put on full display. “I’m extremely proud of the graduates. They faced an awful lot of adversity much like everyone else. Instead of
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COMMUNITY

A chamber designed for veterans

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COMMUNITY

Livestram discusses barriers to equality

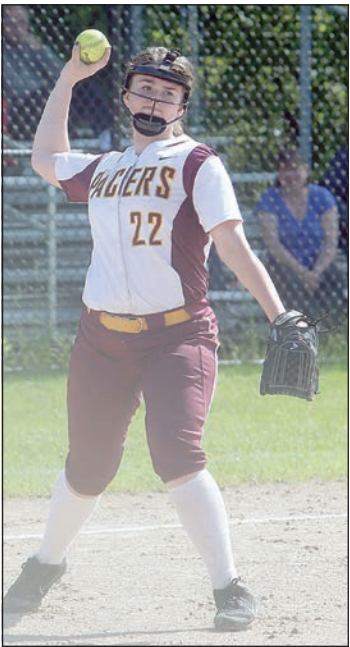


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A Family Owned Company Serving Your Family!

Chicopee Register

Bellamy students hungry for education

Funding gap looms at Riverfront

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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A chamber designed specifically for veterans

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

When Lisa Ducharme walked out of the Pentagon alive on Sept. 11, 2001, she was aware that the course of her life had been forever altered. Motivated by the aftermath of the terror attacks, she established the New England Veteran's Chamber of Commerce.

"9/11 is what actually set my path to where I am today; it was never anywhere within my projection," said Ducharme, an Air Force veteran. "One of the things that I realized was the difference that there was from Sept. 10 to Sept. 12. I will tell you, the way that people and businesses changed was incredible. It was just really markedly different."

Ducharme launched the NEVCC in 2018 to aid local veterans doubling as business owners. The chamber assists military-owned businesses in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

Rhode Island and Vermont. The group of professionals makes material, social and professional resources available to veterans seeking assistance. The NEVCC also partners with a number of small businesses and corporations to seek out opportunities for veteran employment at veteran-owned businesses.

"When we launched, we wanted to make sure that we're not reinventing the wheel," said Ducharme. "There are thousands of really great programs designed for everyone. Our focus is on veteran-owned businesses and helping them not only connect with one another but also make sure that they are aware of the different [opportunities] that are out there."

Ducharme operates out of Belcher-town and hails from a proud military lineage; numerous family members both older and younger have served. By forming the NEVCC, Ducharme hopes to connect with a strong portion of the 140,000 veteran-owned businesses that

operate in New England. Currently, the NEVCC is only associated with approximately 120 businesses, but Ducharme is working to grow the venture. Acknowledging that there are a number of agencies that aid small businesses, Ducharme encourages veterans to look her way.

"There are so many organizations popping up that are trying to get the veterans to come to them," she said. "Sometimes they're doing it because they want to get the veteran numbers and other times they do it to be helpful. There's a whole bunch of reasons why so veterans are very leery when it comes to connecting with different organizations."

By taking it one step at a time, Ducharme and her colleagues at the NEVCC hope to earn the trust of veterans and make them aware of new programs. In addition to the Small Business Administration, Ducharme communicates with a variety of chambers in Massachusetts to further her knowledge.

"Communication is everything. I will tell you that I harp and harp and harp on it; you must communicate not only with your customers but you have to communicate with your stakeholders. Anybody who has dealt with you at all, you need to let them know what's going on," said Ducharme.

During the current pandemic, Ducharme is aware that hundreds of veteran-owned businesses are struggling. She is leading a series of Zoom conference calls to make herself available who those seeking help.

"For businesses, you need to make sure to utilize resources that are out there for you," she said. "These are scary problems, but you don't have to go through them alone. If you just communicate, we have so many people who are out there right now offering free services and references."

The chamber can be viewed online at nevcc.org and can be contacted at 603-809-0416 or by email at admin@NEVCC.org.

Out of safety, city cancels OPEE Summer Adventures

In order to protect the health and safety of campers, their families and staff, the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department announced this year's OPEE Summer Adventures program has been canceled.

Since March the Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the city's Health and Police departments and the Mayor's Office to review federal and state guidelines pertaining to summer

camp during the current health crisis. After reviewing the latest guidelines, the decision was made to cancel the summer camp program this year.

Those who have already registered for the programming will receive a full refund.

"The decision to cancel OPEE was a very difficult one for us to make," said Benjamin Strepka, parks superintendent. "We have spent countless hours discuss-

ing every scenario and exploring every option to safely hold OPEE this summer. After reviewing the recent state guidelines for summer day camps and program with the Health Department, we felt we could not meet these requirements to operate this summer."

"It is the best decision for the safety of residents," Mayor John Vieau said. "We know our OPEE Summer Adventure is important to our younger residents and

their families. However, running a summer camp with a great number of children could endanger the health and safety of not only our kids, but their families and the park staff."

The Parks and Recreation Department is working on offering smaller recreational programs and will release more information as it becomes available.

For more information, visit chicopeeerec.com or call the office at 594-3481.

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Local leaders address a systemic problem

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writers

The existence of racism in America has been thrown under the microscope by recent episodes of police brutality, but the COVID-19 pandemic may be the primary force that is exposing the many systematic inequalities that are prevalent in our nation.

On June 11, Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) of the First Hampden and Hampshire District hosted a livestream discussion with Vanessa Otero, interim director of the Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley. Together, they analyzed several of the social imbalances that the pandemic has distinguished.

“Social distancing is a privilege. If you live in a single family house with a backyard, it’s not a big deal to social distance,” said Lesser. “I don’t want to minimize what anyone is going through, but if you live in a crowded apartment building or public housing or don’t own a car and

have to continue to use public transportation, [it’s risky and difficult.]”

Lesser and Otero agreed that the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus revealed large cracks that exist in the system. Otero believes that the United States has a proven track record of leaving poor and minority populations out to suffer during national health crises.

“It’s interesting because this is not the first time that this has happened,” said Otero. “I think the fact that COVID-19 is affecting everyone seems to put a greater light on it. I’m not taking that lightly, but we’ve had epidemics disproportionately affect communities of color and communities where there’s a large concentration of poverty for forever.”

Otero is of the opinion that the drug and HIV/AIDS epidemics of the 1980s and 1990s were fueled, in part, by institutional inequality. She continued on, noting that the limited availability of healthy food items in minority and poverty-stricken areas has led to an increase of diabetes.

“If you keep peeling the onion, you’ll see that at the root of all of these differences and examples is racism,” said Otero.

The Healing Racism Institute of the Pioneer Valley offers two-day “Healing Racism” sessions, during which participants learn about the consequential impact of racism on Americans. Otero explained what exactly it means to adopt an “anti-racist” mentality.

“Being anti-racist means working to ensure that the systems that are set up that disproportionately, negatively affect some populations over others; that you’re aware of them and that you work from wherever you sit, whether it’s your kitchen table, your office or as a leader of an institution,” said Otero.

Lesser agreed wholeheartedly with the philosophy. He divulged that committing to the spread of anti-racism is a demanding and worthy task.

“Anti-racism is an important term because it implies proactivity that I think

sometimes is lost in the conversation. It’s very important work and, frankly, very hard work because it goes to deep history in our country and society that is going to take a lot of focus and attention to undo and redo,” said Lesser.

According to Otero, social movements have two parts. One component involves bringing attention to the cause while the other includes addressing “hearts, minds and institutions.” There will never be an easy time to advocate for equality so Lesser and Otero ask, “Why not now?”

“This is clearly an opportune time for us to not only get folks’ attention but to expand our work. It’s going to be uncomfortable to a lot of folks, and there’s going to be, obviously, some resistance to this, but one of the things that folks need to be aware of is that if we do not answer this call, this will continue. These things will continue to go on, and we will not be better for it. It will be a missed opportunity,” said Otero.

Credit Union celebrates centennial with photo contest

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Polish National Credit Union announced a centennial photo contest, with the 12 best photos featured in its 2021 100th Anniversary Calendar.

The submission period is now underway, having launched June 15, and runs through Friday, July 31. Submissions may be uploaded online at www.pncu.com/2021photocontest. Photos must fit one of four categories: Com-

munity, Landscape, Business or Big Dreams. Photos must feature subjects in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin or Berkshire counties in Massachusetts, or Hartford, Litchfield or Tolland counties in Connecticut.

The Community category is for photos of groups or individuals participating in community activities or events. The Landscape is for landscape photos in one of the specified counties. Business

photos should feature images of businesses, business owners or employees working in the community. Big Dreams should feature a big dream folks financed through the PNCU, like a home, car or boat.

The photo contest is open to anyone 16-years-old or older and membership of the Polish National Credit Union is not required.

Entries will be judged based on cre-

ativity, quality, originality and ability to meet guidelines. The Photo Contest Committee will meet and select the top 20 photos, which will be displayed online at pncu.com and social media pages where the public will vote for the final 12. The 12 photos with the highest votes will be featured in the anniversary calendar.

For more information, visit pncu.com/2021photocontest.

Audit: MassDEP leaves public with murky water quality picture

BOSTON – A recent audit released by State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump shows the Department of Environmental Protection is not providing important information to the federal government and the public about the safety and usability of Massachusetts watersheds in a timely manner.

The audit examined the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019.

The audit found DEP has not released reports required by the federal Clean Water Act. Under this law, each state must provide the Environmental Protection Agency with an Integrated List of Waters Report every two years that contains details on its water quality, including information on bodies of water that are impaired by pollutants. Bump’s audit found DEP did not finalize its 2016 edition of this report, which was due in April 2016, until December 2019 and has still not filed its 2018 edition. Additionally, the audit shows DEP has not made water quality testing data it has gathered available to the public since 2015.

The audit notes that without these two sources of information, the public does not know whether watersheds in the state are safe for their designated uses. To address these issues, the audit recommends DEP reevaluate its data collection and processing methods, using labs not run by the state to test samples, and consider using external sources

that may assist with data collection and reporting.

“The Department of Environmental Protection is tasked with fulfilling the Massachusetts Constitution’s guarantee of clean air and water for its residents. Unfortunately, the failure to provide important information has left the public with a murky picture of water quality in the state,” Bump said of the audit. “While the agency has taken some steps to address these issues, I urge them to continue to implement all of our audit recommendations.”


Bump also calls on the agency to improve oversight of facilities that manufacture, process and use toxic substances in their operations, after the audit found DEP did not always ensure these users filed required toxic use reports and reduction plan summaries.

DEP, a subdivision of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, is responsible for protecting and enhancing the commonwealth’s natural resources, including air, water and land, as well as for advancing sustainable economic development. DEP’s headquarters is in Boston and it has four regional offices in Springfield, Worcester, Wilmington and Lakeville, as well as a state laboratory in Lawrence.

At the end of the audit period, DEP had approximately 700 full-time employees and in fiscal 2019 received \$57,539,138 in state appropriations.

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CLUES ACROSS			CLUES DOWN	
1. Japanese classical theater	41. Witch		1. Civil Rights group	bluesman
4. Chess pieces	42. Promotional material		2. Metropolis	27. Hang-ups
9. Pieces of writing	43. Having certain appendages		3. Badgers	31. Long, leafless flower stalk
14. Doctors’ group	44. Approaches		4. Regular business given to a store	32. Categorize
15. Capital of Guam	46. One who did it (slang)		5. Gets older	34. Loads
16. Type of turtle	49. Of I		6. A bundle of banknotes	35. Indicates position
17. Swiss river	50. Blood relation		7. Midway between north and northwest	36. Unreasonable
18. MLB Hall of Famer	51. Works out		8. Takes to the sea	40. Dorm worker
20. Places to sit	55. Female given name		9. Prestigious film prize: ___ d’or	41. Dweller
22. Fancy rides	58. Isaac’s mother (Bib.)		10. Baltimore ballplayer	45. Welsh female name meaning “snow”
23. One of Washington’s Tri-Cities	59. Makes someone happy		11. Removed	47. Offering again
24. Without class	60. Creative		12. Term of respect	48. National capital
28. Male child	64. Small, faint constellation		13. Genus containing pigs	52. Firm, dry and brittle
29. Keeps you cool	65. S. American trees		19. Illumined	53. 007’s creator
30. Biblical place	66. Makes simpler		21. One who symbolizes something	54. Allied H.Q.
31. Italian city	67. Neither		24. Member of a Turkic people	56. Mackerels
33. District in central Turkey	68. We all need it		25. The academic world	57. Month of the Hindu year
37. Job for a grad student	69. Unique plastic utensil		26. “Key to the Highway”	59. Not odd
38. Central nervous system	70. Thyroid-stimulating hormone (abbr.)			60. Belonging to a thing
39. Arrange in steps				61. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 5

GUEST COLUMN

Chicopee must learn from this moment

By Joel D. McAuliffe
Guest Columnist

Last Saturday, hundreds of people marched down the streets of Chicopee at a Black Lives Matter protest. On Monday, others honored the Black lives recently lost during a vigil at Chicopee High School. I attended both, doing my best to listen and learn. Our community's solidarity made me proud to live here and to march alongside my neighbors. I believe that racism is an ongoing, systemic threat to our community and our country. In Chicopee, that means we must do better by our black and Latino residents.

While tragedy has not yet struck one of our neighbors in the same way it has struck George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others, we cannot be complacent. Following the lead of our residents taking to the streets, our city government has the chance to make real, tangible change. If we face this difficult moment head-on, recommitting ourselves to the values of honesty and community, we can all be safer. Here, just like the rest of the United States, we must reflect, learn and change. We must work proactively to keep people of color and police officers safe. That's why this week, I will ask my colleagues on the Chicopee City Council to declare racism a public health crisis and restore the city's civilian Police Commission.

To solve the problem of racism, we have to name it. We know that black, Latino, and native people have less access to healthy nutrition and health care as a result of employment, housing and transportation inequity. We know, as a result, that they suffer from greater rates of diabetes, asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure, mental health afflictions and other diseases. We know that a black baby born in Massachusetts is almost three times more likely to die before their first birthday than a white baby, and that a Latino baby is nearly twice as likely to perish. When people of color suffer more frequently and more severely in so many measures of health, we need to identify the problem. We need to say loud and clear that when our systems do not work equally for everyone, our systems compromise the health and well-being of our entire community.

Of course, identifying a problem is just the first step toward a solution. We must be committed to action. For over a decade, all five seats on the Chicopee Police Commission have been vacant. Reviving this independent civilian board, which is already on the books, will ensure accountability while building trust between Chicopee residents and police officers. Even though our officers are committed to protect and serve, we cannot simply ignore the fact that communities of color distrust the police as an institution by a large margin. By restoring the Police Commission, our city can demonstrate its good faith, fostering trust with residents of color that will aid our police department in its mission of crime prevention and public safety.

Let me be clear: I stand with the officers of the Chicopee Police Department. They

See **LEARN** page 5

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: **The Chicopee Register**,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

GUEST COLUMN

Using an "All-weather Umbrella Plan"

By Joan E. B. Coombs
Guest Columnist

"Wait a minute! New England's weather will change!" is a well-known phrase for those who live in the Northeast United States of America.

Even when summertime arrives mid-June, sometimes late spring showers mix with unexpected bursts of hail. Thunder and lightning storms usher drenching, puddling rains onto thirsty grounds and gardens. When warm weather sweeps ashore, seacoast squalls billow across beaches.

Whether living in the mountains or valleys of New England's western regions or the eastern coastal area, most residents could use an action plan while waiting for the weather to switch.

Then, maybe it's wise to have an "All-weather Umbrella Plan?" Borrowing a familiar insurance policy term helps us to learn that an umbrella policy covers that which needs extra, extended coverage.

Whether your go-to umbrella protects you from soaking showers or whether it's a big backyard umbrella for protection from hours in harmful sunrays, or even if it's a big, family beach umbrella, its purpose is to provide a covering; a shield; a safe guard from weather-related elements.

Interestingly, an umbrella's components are well suited for standing up under some of life's atmospheric issues. Whether it's cascading, torrential rains or a backyard or beach time with extended sun overexposure, an umbrella offers a protective covering.

Simply put, an umbrella is composed of a shaft, spokes, stretchers, springs, a canopy and a handle. Using a little imagination, let's pop up "An all-weather Umbrella Plan." Maybe use it when you're caught in a rain-storm, or sitting out enjoying the sunshine?

Or, possibly use it when dealing with life's important situations?

First let's consider an umbrella's construction and the design's purpose:

1. Shaft: a central, mainstay staff. Strong. Dependable. Adjustable and can be extended to desired, intentional lengths.

2. Spokes: "rib-like" supportive, curved structures. Designed purposefully to bend in a curved shape. Flexible. Movable. Supportive to the central shaft.

3. Stretchers: Strong, supportive "extended arms" holding up the "rib-like" spokes. Specifically designed to stay connected to each other and to the shaft.

4. Springs: Two, shaft-installed catch springs. When pressed, their function brings the umbrella covering UP for protection or DOWN for storage and future use.

5. Canopy: A cover made from eight, custom-cut, weather-proof nylon panels.

6. Handle: The handgrip is strategically connected to the shaft bearing the weight of all the umbrella's components and purpose.

Having "An all-weather Umbrella Plan" prepares us as family members and friends to be alert in protecting and safely preserving others and ourselves from any harmful, pelting, overexposure to surrounding elements.

There are times when life calls us to be a shaft; a strong, dependable central figure who is available and adjustable to "go the extra mile" with good intentions. There are moments when we must be flexibly supportive. There are events when strong, extended arms need to hold up the ones who are also part of The Design's intended good purpose. Resilient, properly placed, quick, spring-like action is another important deed when giving protection and coverings from what may cause damage.

However. Whenever. Wherever. We-

See **PLAN** page 5



Joan E. B. Coombs

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The *Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Immoral orders should not be obeyed

To the editor:

I have the utmost respect for anyone who chooses the profession of working to protect their community as a policeman and those of whom choose to protect our nation by serving in the armed forces. But the incident in Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C., whereas, the order was given by the White House to unleash an aggressive move by police and National Guardsmen to disperse a peaceful crowd of pro-

testers so that Mr. Trump could make his way to do a photo-op in front of the St. John's Episcopal Church is one time that law enforcement should have declined to follow the orders and stand-down. If president Trump should ever decide to use active duty military nationwide, then things could get ugly and the question becomes, is our democracy in danger?

Bill Paul
Chicopee

413Cares collaborates with Mass 2-1-1, Aunt Bertha to offer support

SPRINGFIELD – 413Cares.org, the online community resource database recently launched for the Western Massachusetts region, has announced a collaboration with Mass 2-1-1, the statewide free information and referral hotline. The collaboration will provide phone support for those searching

for services on the 413Cares portal. Those searching for food, housing, or other COVID-related services on the 413Cares online portal will see a pop-up box with links to COVID-19 resources and a link to call Mass 2-1-1. This “click-to-call” feature will be incorporated into the

413Cares.org website with the help of Aunt Bertha, which is the national platform that houses 413Cares.org. The Mass 2-1-1 resource and referral hotline, created by the Council of Massachusetts United Ways, operates 24/7. Other resource and referral networks

in the region and across the state, including Boston Medical Center’s MA Community Resource Directory MASSTHRIVE.org and UMass Memorial Health Care & Reliant Medical Group’s CommunityHELP.net, are also collaborating with Mass 2-1-1 to offer this feature on their portals.

ACADEMY from page 1

giving into the adversity and making a bad decision, they individually made some really strong decisions. I’m proud of the path that they’ve taken and the effort they’ve put forth on a daily basis,” said Leonard.

The June 4 ceremony can be viewed on ChicopeeTV’s Vimeo and Facebook pages. Superintendent Lynn Clark participated in the celebration and took to the podium on June 4 to commend the students.

“While we are all aware and empathize that this is not the way that you wanted your graduation to be, I want to remind you that dreams don’t always come through exactly as we picture them. My heart goes out to all of you for seeing this dream through,” she said.

During an interview following the ceremony, Leonard took the opportunity to praise his staff. He described a collaborative atmosphere in which teachers and administrators worked together to support remote learning.

“We were forced to use technology and we’ve learned so many things about it that we’re going to be able to imple-

ment it into the daily classes when we get back inside of the building. The staff here did a phenomenal job. It wasn’t just the teachers; it was the counselors, who were constantly on the telephone, my Vice Principal making phone calls,” said Leonard.

Rivera agreed, even stating that Leonard is the best principal that he’s ever had. After thanking his immediate and extended family for their unconditional support, Rivera voiced gratitude to all of the educators at Chicopee Academy who positively impacted his life.

“One thing I learned here at Chicopee Academy is that hard work really does pay off. If you put in the work here, there’s no way you can fail because everyone here from the top to the bottom wants to help you succeed,” said Rivera.

In similar fashion to the graduating classes of Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Chicopee Academy organized a car parade on June 4 for its graduating seniors. For Leonard, the day will always hold special meaning.

“It was great to see them; the smiles that everyone had on their faces just to see one another,” he said.

PLAN from page 4

can brighten the world around us when choosing unique umbrellas with a patriotic, nostalgic, or whimsical design. Let’s get a grasp on situations and forecasts.

LEARN from page 4

have sworn a patriotic and sacred oath to protect and serve, and have time and time again put their lives on the line. It is our duty to help them fulfill their mission.

To better support police, we can reallocate funding away from certain expenditures, like last year’s purchase of a \$175,000 BearCat — a tactical vehicle I myself voted for — that unnecessarily militarizes our police and provides a false sense of security. Other investments can prevent violence from occurring in the first place. After all, if we can afford a BearCat, then we can certainly afford to commit more resources to community programs like the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, which works to reduce juvenile delinquency and eliminate the root causes of crime. When dangerous situations do arise, we

Let’s grab a strong, portable, on-the-go umbrella for sudden showers. Let’s grip a big umbrella for sun-filled times in the backyard or beach. Hmm. Shall we take on life’s challenges with a pop-up “All-weather Umbrella Plan” and use it?

can better manage them by training our officers to de-escalate potential tragedies. Furthermore, equipping our officers with body cameras can give us a clear record of how a murky encounter truly unfolded and help improve police training. If we fail to act, we will fail to protect our officers and their commitment to serving the public.

In Isaiah 1:17, we are taught to “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression.” We can protect our residents and support our police officers, face our challenges and uphold our faith. We can ensure that Chicopee is safe and welcoming for all, but that will require action. If we want to protect our neighbors and salute our police officers, action cannot wait.

Joel McAuliffe is a Chicopee City Councilor representing Ward 1.

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PRICING UPDATE: We have some good news to report here at 90 Meat – **FALLING PRICES!** In addition to our sales items, regular prices of most fresh beef, pork, and chicken dropped for the first time today since before this pandemic started. Now we understand they are not back to “normal” but we anticipate this trend to continue for the next few weeks. We are optimistic that soon we will achieve our ultimate goal of **B.C. Pricing – Before Corona Pricing.** Please stay tuned as we are working diligently to get our loyal customers the best prices possible.

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CHICOPEE HIGH SCHOOL



Families wave signs to celebrate their graduates.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI



This float near the front of the parade celebrates the graduates of both Chicopee High and Chicopee Comp.



From left Matthew Demers, Michael Hood Burgess, Brennan Dort and Hayden Gahulee reveled in the moment ahead of the June 4 parade.



Superintendent of Schools Lynn Clark (back) and Mayor John Vieau get ready to help lead the Class of 2020 on their graduation parade.



Anthony Mezzetti writes a message on his friend's vehicle.



The Roberson family waits to cheer the graduates at Szoť Park.



The Class of 2020 has fun waving and pointing out friends and loved ones along the parade route June 4.



A ladder truck from the Chicopee Fire Department helps celebrate the Class of 2020 during the graduation parade for Chicopee High June 4.

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Sophia & Andy, Teresa & Mike

Congratulations Jordan!
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Keeping the peace and setting the pace, the Chicopee Police Department leads the CHS graduation parade.

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CHICOPEE COMPREHENSIVE



One Comp senior holds a sign from the Class of 2020.



Comp seniors wave to family and friends from a float at the front of the parade.



Cars zoomed out of the Comp campus to celebrate their success with a parade.



Chicopee Comprehensive High School seniors (from left) Christina Douglass, Brianna Bushey and Morgan Trombley prepare for a graduation parade June 5, the scheduled day of their graduation. Due to the coronavirus, the school taped the presentation of diplomas in late May and celebrated the graduates with their own parade. STAFF PHOTOS BY TYLER S. WITKOP



Comp teacher Kara (Macken) Gebo (right) and her son Quentin celebrate with the Class of 2020 at the entrance to the school. The two waved their own homemade signs celebrating the students' successes.



Paying homage to their senior year that included quarantines and toilet paper shortages, this pickup truck was easy to spot throughout the graduation parade June 5.



Members of the Class of 2020 wait in their vehicles June 5 before parading throughout the city in celebration of their high school graduation.



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SOFTBALL

Pacers softball wanted to head back to tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School softball team has remained competitive over the past several years thanks to some solid players up and down the classes.

This year, Averie Gatzounas, Ziniya Vazquez, Madison Wolohan, Theresa Plasse, and Katelyn Broer would have had their opportunity to be recognized as seniors on the team.

Coach Mel Sasser said the group would have been in contention for the Valley Wheel League title.

“The team lost a few key players from last season, but I believed we would have been able to reload at those positions and compete for a Valley Wheel League Title,” said Sasser. “A quality group of seniors led by captains Averie Gatzounas, Ziniya Vazquez, and senior returning players: Theresa Plasse, Madison Wolohan, and Katelyn Broer. Juniors: Sophia Meade, Aneesa Rivera, Ashley Hebert, Sophomores: Gwyneth Gagnon, and Marina Fedora would have given the team a strong

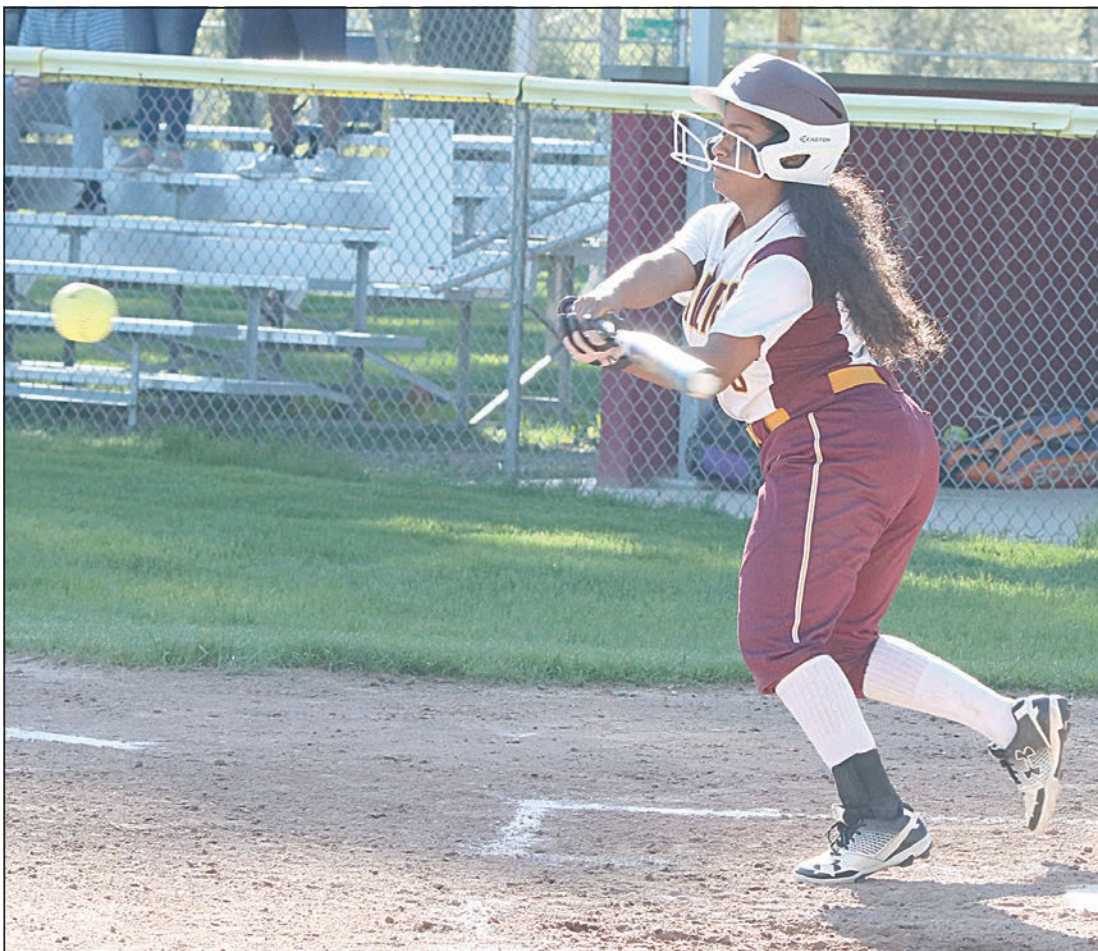
foundation to compete for the title. Sophomores, Jordyan Padilla, and Morgan Reno had a strong junior varsity season and were looking forward to competing for varsity playing time. Then there is the newcomer or the junior varsity player who seeks to take the next step, but never got the opportunity.”

Gatzounas would have been a captain and is a four-year member of the program.

“A solid all-around player,” Sasser said. “She has started and played in 60 of 62 games since her freshman year. Gatz as I called her brought a lot of athleticism to the field where she played shortstop. Her ability to drive the ball to the gaps and her speed on the base paths would have been fun to watch this season.”

Vazquez was a four-year member of the program and established herself as a solid lead-off hitter last year.

“She quickly demonstrated herself as a player who could help out this team,” said Sasser. “Ziniya played right field and was our lead-off hitter. A



Ziniya Vazquez attempts a slap hit.

FILE PHOTO

See **SOFTBALL** page 9

BASEBALL

Valley Wheel looking at early July open

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is projecting tryouts in late June with an early July start to the game schedule. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com.

The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.



Bryan Forest fields a ground ball.



Gary Perreault makes a throw.



Ken LePage tries to get the out at first.

FILE PHOTOS

Adult league starts practice

REGION – With Phase 2 of the re-opening plan underway, some adult leagues have started practicing, hoping the timeline will allow games to begin playing shortly after June 30. The Valley

Wheel League is currently accepting new players with a 5 to 10 game season planned, depending on how well the re-opening plan goes. See related article for contact information for the league.

BASKETBALL

Schedule released for college tip-off tourney

UNCASVILLE, Conn. – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today the field of teams and brackets for the 2020 Tip-Off Tournament. The annual NCAA men’s exempt tournament sponsored by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will take place Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut. Eight schools will compete in two four-team brackets with campus round games leading up to the Mohegan Sun Arena contests.

Teams scheduled to participate in this year’s Tip-Off Tournament are: University of Central Florida (American Athletic), Marquette University (Big East), University of Minnesota (Big 10), University of Rhode Island (Atlantic 10), University at Albany (America East), Lehigh University (Patriot League), Long Island University (Northeast), and Quinnipiac University (Metro Atlantic).

“The Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament has proven to be one of the best early

season events in the country, offering great competition and an outstanding venue,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “We look forward to hosting this year’s field of teams and their fans at beautiful Mohegan Sun.”

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will continue to serve as the host conference for the annual event. The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is also proud to continue its relationship with Learfield IMG College for sponsorship representation of its portfolio of collegiate events.

Ticket information, game times and television broadcast details and will be released at a later date. As the health and safety of the athletes, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely in the coming months and provide updates as needed. For more information, please visit www.halloffamemetipoff.com.

Quabbin League Over-30 Baseball Leaguehoping for mid-July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going

forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor's re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Senior athletes being featured

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

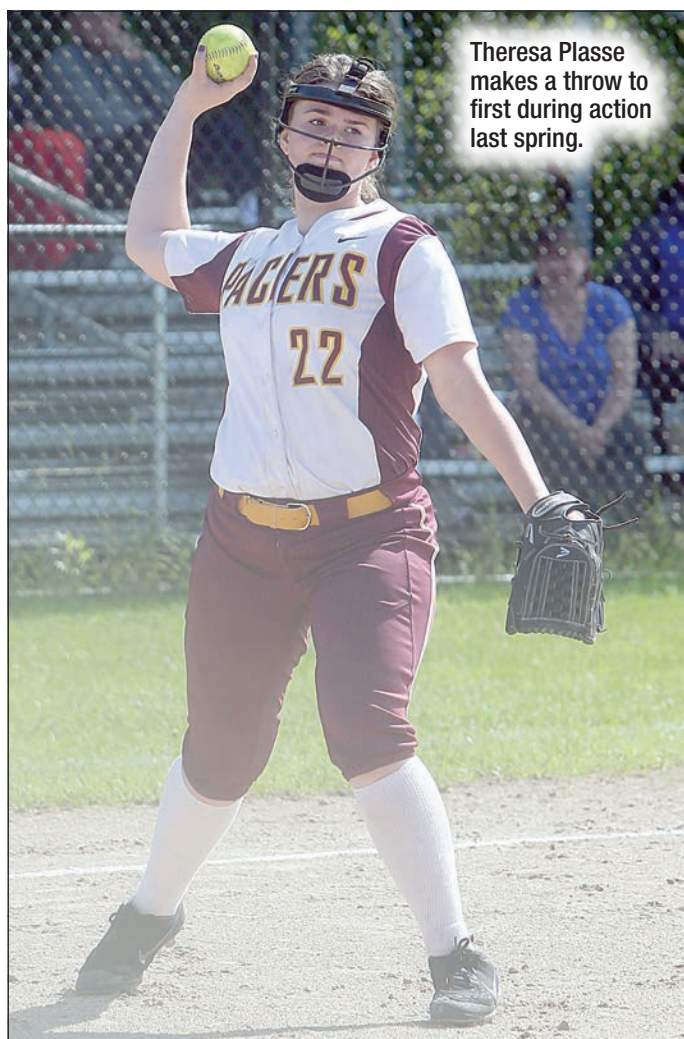
The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's

season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.



SOFTBALL from page 8

left-handed slap hitter, she led the team in on-base percentage and runs scored."

Wolohan spent time at first base last year and likely would have started at the position this season.

"Madison didn't disappoint as she delivered both offensively and defensively in clutch moments," she said.

Plasse would have started at third base.

"She would have anchored the hot corner again for us this season while batting in the middle of the order," said Sasser.

Broer would have made varsity for the first time.

"She would give you 100 percent each day and would do anything to contribute to the team's success," said Sasser.

The loss of 2020 season will undoubtedly affect the Pacers, Sasser believes.

"At Chicopee High, many of our players only tend to play a high school season," he said. "These players will be lucky to pick up their gloves and play a competitive season in 22 months, and with the virus, even the players who play competitively in the summer and fall may not play a competitive game in over 15 months. You cannot compensate or replace that competitive environment that a full season extends to the players."

FACES AND PLACES

Friedhaber earns Dean's List honors

BEVERLY – Endicott College recently announced that Sloan Friedhaber, of Chicopee, daughter of Shalene and Todd Friedhaber, earned Dean's List status for the spring 2020 semester.

To qualify, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.50, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

Kazeroid named to Castleton Dean's List

CASTLETON, Vt. – Kyle Kazeroid, of Chicopee, was recently named to the Castleton University Dean's List for the spring semester of the 2019-20

academic year. To qualify for this academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.50.

2 locals among Siena College Dean's List

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. – Siena College recently announced the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Among those students are Chicopee residents Macy Carleton

and Amanda Schlaferman.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.50 and 3.89.

Joshua Laxton earns Max Cares scholarship

HARTFORD, Conn. – Max Cares Foundation, a nonprofit organization, recently announced it has awarded five scholarships to college-bound high school seniors and three rising college students who are studying the fields of culinary arts or hospitality management. Each student will receive \$2,500 toward their college expenses.

Joshua Laxton, of Chicopee, is a rising second year student enrolled in the Culinary Institute of America's Science

of Hospitality Management program.

"With the hospitality industry hit particularly hard by the pandemic at this time, I am excited that the Mac Cares Foundation is investing in the next generation of our business," said Rich Rosenthal, president of Max Cares.

Applications for the Culinary Arts Scholarships for the next school year will be announced in Spring 2021. More information can be found at MaxCares-Foundation.org.

Austin Albertson named to Becker Dean's List

WORCESTER – Becker College announced that Austin Albertson, of Chicopee, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2020 semester. Albertson is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in interactive media design, game production and management concentration.

The Dean's List recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester - September through May) whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

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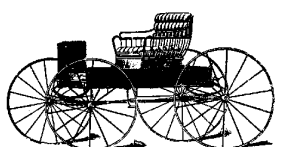
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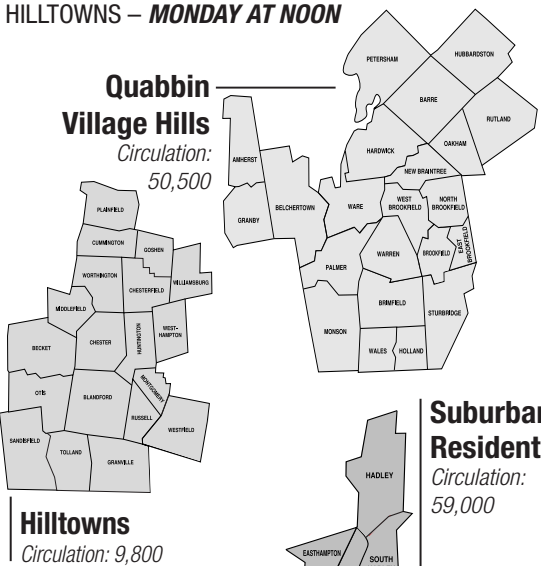
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CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
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17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600
Docket No. HD17P2162EA
Estate of:
Janet Marie Druzolowski
Also Known As:
Janet M. Druzolowski, Janet Druzolowski
Date of Death: 07/21/2017
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Michael R. Lopardo** of Eastham, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Michael R. Lopardo of Eastham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of

Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 6/18/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **June 18, 2020** at **Interstate Towing, Inc** the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 FORD F350
VIN: 1FDSE35F11HB17724
Unknown

2005 CADILLAC STS
VIN: 1G6DC67A650178855
Richard Edwards
702 S Westfield St
Feeding Hills, MA 01001

2005 MERCURY MARINER
VIN: 4M2YU57165DJ08975
Buraq Jasim
20 Upland Gardens Dr, Apt 9
Worcester, MA 01605

2005 SUBARU FORESTER
VIN: JF1SG656X5H735250
Yashada Kwaning
204 Beacon St, Apt B
Worcester, MA 01610

2007 CHRYSLER PACIFICA
VIN: 2A8GF68X87R290160
Arlene Twining
33 Granville Rd
Southwick, MA 01077

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4BL24E28C146188
David Berbrian/Cody Hennessey
318 River St
Liceester, MA 01524

2009 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL21E89C116288
Betty Hendrich
535 Rosedale St, 3D
Bronx, NY 10473

2018 WOLF U50
VIN: L5YACBAW7K1115632
David Mitchell
224 West Main St
Vernon, CT 06066
6/04, 6/11, 6/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0848EA
Estate of:
Michael Francis Lamoureux
Also known as:
Michael F Lamoureux, Michael Lamoureux
Date of Death: 04/02/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Margaret Murty** of Springfield, MA and **Jeanne M Burns** of West Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such

other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Margaret Murty** of Springfield, MA and **Jeanne M Burns** of West Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **07/02/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and

may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 04, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
6/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0869EA
Estate of:
Beatrice P Graham
Date of Death: 03/07/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Catherine Demers** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Catherine Demers** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to

obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on **07/07/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 09, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
6/18/2020

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